



**American Beekeeping
Federation**

American Beekeeping Federation

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TO: OSCEOLA MEDIA

RELEASE DATE: IMMEDIATELY

SUBJECT: 2015 AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN TO VISIT IOWA

**FROM: AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN PROGRAM
ANNA L. KETTLEWELL, CHAIRPERSON
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Gabrielle Hemesath, the 2015 American Honey Queen, will visit Osceola, IA on April 27. She will be a guest of the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District, speaking to area students about the importance of honeybees to Iowa agriculture and how honeybees are the connection between plants and our plates. She will also share information about the many uses for honey, including how it can sweeten your entire home. Gabrielle will make appearances throughout the community during her visit.

Gabrielle is the 19-year-old daughter of Mary and Russell Hemesath of Clermont, IA. She is a freshman at Iowa State University majoring in marketing. Gabrielle became interested in beekeeping at a young age and has been employed by Fassbinder Apiaries since 2008, assisting in managing 2,000 beehives.

As the 2015 American Honey Queen, Gabrielle serves as a national spokesperson on behalf of the American Beekeeping Federation, a trade organization representing beekeepers and honey producers throughout the United States. The Honey Queen and Princess speak and promote in venues nationwide, and, as such Queen Gabrielle will travel throughout the United States during her year-long reign. Prior to being selected as the American Honey Queen, Gabrielle served as the 2014 Iowa Honey Queen. In this role, she promoted the honey industry at fairs, festivals, and farmers' markets, via television and radio interviews, and in schools.

The beekeeping industry touches the lives of every individual in our country. In fact, honeybees are responsible for nearly one-third of our entire diet, in regards to the pollination services that they provide for a large majority of fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes. This amounts to nearly \$19 billion per year of direct value from honeybee pollination to United States agriculture.

For more information on Queen Gabrielle's Iowa visit and to schedule an interview, contact Connie Harmsen at 631.342.2917, ext. 3.

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